

September 20, 2008

Eleven Swan Rangers hiked a loop over Mount Aeneas and back via Picnic Lakes Saturday, with most starting at the Jewel Basin parking lot and several starting at the bottom of the Switchback Trail.

Lots of goats were seen along the trail and cliffs of Mount Aeneas, as were several raptors including a Cooper's hawk.

Our once-youngest Swan Ranger is now five years old and led the way at times, beating "Grandpa Keith" to the top of Aeneas and back to the parking lot!

The fall colors are blazing in all their glory in the high country. Fall offers some of the best hiking weather of the year and days like Saturday simply take one's breath away!

The Swan Rangers meet every Saturday at the Echo Lake Cafe for breakfast at 7:30, leaving at 8:30 for a partial day outing in the northern Swan Mountains and foothills.

They carpool from the Swan River School parking lot next to the Cafe.

Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you soon,



Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



"Backpack Zack" leads the way up the switchbacks to Mount Aeneas.



Picnic Lakes provide a scenic backdrop for a nanny mountain goat and her kid on Mount Aeneas.



Mountain goats often share the trail with hikers on Mount Aeneas.



A nice lunch and social hour at the top of the world - well, Jewel Basin anyway!